

SERIOUS RIOTS

CZECH POPULACE OF PRAGUE ATTACK THE GERMANS

Windows of German Theatres, Schools, Restaurants and Residences Broken—Houses and Shops in the German Quarter Plundered. Troops Necessary to Disperse the Mob. The Rioters Resist and are Fired Upon. Traffic Suspended.

Prague, Bohemia, December 1.—There was a renewal of the rioting here last evening. The windows of the German theatre, German schools, restaurants, residences and newspaper offices were broken. The troops cleared the streets. Many people were injured and a number of arrests were made. During the afternoon the riots increased. The synagogue windows were smashed as well as the windows of the houses of Jews displaying German trade signs in several streets of the Jewish quarter.

Since 6 o'clock this evening the streets have been held by twelve battalions of infantry and a squadron of hussars. All traffic is suspended and the shops and business houses are closed.

In spite of the military, a large Czech mob made a descent during the evening upon the German quarter and plundered houses and shops in several streets. The furniture of a well-known German cafe was piled up in the street and set on fire. When a detachment of troops approached to disperse the rioters the soldiers were greeted with showers of stones, broken glass and other missiles. The officer in command ordered his troops to prepare to fire, but at the urgent request of a police official the order was not carried into effect.

Shortly before 9 o'clock a mob attempted to storm a cartridge factory at Zizhkov, a suburb of Prague, on the other side of the Moldau. The troops stationed at the factory poured a volley into the crowd. It is known that at least two persons were killed outright, and it is feared that others were killed or wounded. The same body of rioters set fire to a house at Zizhkov, but the flames were soon quenched. In various other parts of the city and the suburbs windows were smashed and German signboards demolished. It is said that the mob was incited by articles in the Czech newspapers and by a false report that the German students had organized an attack upon the Czech national theatre.

At a late hour threatening crowds made repeated rushes and attempts to storm the German newspaper offices, but by 11 o'clock the town was quiet and the troops had been withdrawn except patrols at threatened points. In Smichow, the southwest suburb of Prague and a thickly populated industrial quarter, at a late hour in the evening a riotous mob attacked and plundered the German national school. The rioters fired shots at the police detachment which arrived on the scene to disperse them; whereupon the commanding officer, acting with great promptitude, drew his revolver and fired at one of the ringleaders, the bullet piercing his arm. He then arrested the man, and the result of this energetic action was the dispersal of the mob without much further difficulty.

The German gymnasium in the Altstaedter-Ring, in the centre of the city, was plundered by a mob which finally dispersed by combined charge of soldiers and police.

As a result of the riots and disorders of the last twenty-four hours, the authorities have proclaimed the city under martial law. The chief of police, who is a Czech, was discovered encouraging rioters, and has been suspended from office. It is now known that the number of injured Germans reaches 300. The disturbances today have amounted almost to a rebellion. Thousands of Czech miners streamed into Prague tonight from the surrounding villages to assist the rioters. It has been dangerous for Germans to venture into the streets, as any use of the German language meant certain assault.

The German Ambassador Interviewed

Washington, December 1.—Dr. von Holleben, the new German ambassador, was seen at the German embassy today, and for the first time since his arrival consented to speak concerning some of the questions of mutual interest between the United States and Germany. As to the Haytian controversy, Dr. von Holleben said: "I have received no official instructions from my government on the subject; yet, speaking unofficially, the case has assumed in the press proportions far greater than it deserves. It is simply a question of indemnity for an offense against a German citizen residing in Hayti. Beyond this all is conjecture, and there is no basis of fact whatsoever for the reports as to what might ultimately occur."

The ambassador was asked as to the tariff, but he did not care to discuss that matter. On the general feeling in Germany he said: "There is, I am glad to say, the most kindly sentiment throughout Germany toward the American people and their government." When Dr. von Holleben was asked as to the meaning of Germany's steps toward increasing her navy, he smilingly replied: "Germany is a peaceful nation, and I am glad to say that, like President McKinley, the emperor of Germany is one of the most pacific rulers in the world. Naturally, Germany wants an adequate navy just as the United States desires a strong naval force, not as a means of aggression, but to maintain her interest in the world over."

Medical men say rheumatism is the forerunner of heart disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism by its action on the blood.

POLITICS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Teachers' Certificate Revoked Because He is a Democrat—Production of Manuscripted Tobacco in the State Last Year (Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December 1.—A Forsyth teacher named Graham writes the state superintendent of public instruction: "My certificate as a teacher has been revoked, simply because I am a democrat." The superintendent replies that he refers the case to the county board of education and says when it passes upon it if Graham is not satisfied he will himself fully investigate. He concludes: "We must not let politics come into our schools."

The labor commissioner will report that during the year ending yesterday there were manufactured in North Carolina 26,229,000 pounds of plug tobacco, 6,300 pounds of snuff, 4,029,000 cigars and 33,091,000 packages of cigarettes.

THE GULDENBUCK MURDERERS

Thorn Trying to Resign Himself to His Fate—Conflicting Statements as to a Confession—Mrs. Nock to Plead Guilty of Manslaughter

New York, December 1.—Martin Thorn, who last evening heard the verdict of the jury which will send him to the electric chair to expiate the murder of William Guldensuppe, passed a quiet night in his cell at the Queens county jail. When Sheriff Doherty went to see Thorn this morning, the condemned prisoner said he had no appetite for breakfast, but he felt that a big load was off his mind. Thorn did not talk as if he had any hope of getting a new trial. He supposed, he said, he would have to make up his mind to meet the worst.

Justice Captain McMahon, of Long Island City, said today: "There are some discrepancies in the published report of Thorn's confession, but the main facts remain unchanged. Thorn made part of the confession to me and part to Sheriff Doherty."

Lawyer Howe today denied in strong terms the statement that Thorn, after his conviction yesterday, confessed to the killing and dismemberment of Guldensuppe. Mr. Howe reiterated his belief that the court of appeals would reverse the verdict.

Mrs. Nock spent a restless night, being evidently much affected by the conviction of Thorn. When she heard of the verdict she wept and expressed sorrow for her former lover, although she says her conscience is relieved. Mrs. Nock is in a highly nervous condition and now very anxious about her own case. District Attorney Youngs has not announced just what her purposes doing in the case of Mrs. Nock, but says he will take no action until after Thorn is sentenced.

It is understood Mrs. Nock will be arraigned in court next week, when her counsel, Emanuel Friend, will in her behalf, enter a plea of guilty of manslaughter in the first degree and that the district attorney will accept the plea. In doing this, Mr. Youngs would be recognizing Mrs. Nock's action in turning state's evidence at the first trial. Mrs. Nock may be sentenced to twenty years imprisonment.

The Atlantic Squadron to Assemble at Key West

Washington, December 1.—The north Atlantic squadron will enter the gulf of Mexico this winter and spend several months off the coast of Florida. This will be the first time in about three years that the squadron has been in the gulf, the last cruise having been made under the command of Rear Admiral Meade. It was the intention shortly after his retirement to send the squadron to the Venezuelan coast for the customary winter drills, but this cruise was abandoned on account of friction that had been caused between the United States and Great Britain over the Venezuelan boundary question, it being feared that the presence of our warships in the neighborhood of the scene of dispute would be misconstrued into a hostile purpose. Later on and after the Venezuelan matter had dropped into the background, the situation as to Cuba was regarded by the administration as being such as to make it imprudent to allow the squadron to absent itself from our unprotected shores. Moreover, the approach of the ships to Cuba would have been interpreted by the insurgents as a sign of the intention of the United States government to interfere in their behalf. All of these reasons have now ceased to be of force.

It has been arranged that the harbor of Key West shall form the rendezvous of the vessels. The conditions there, it is said at the department, are very favorable. The exact date for the assembling of the ships there has not yet been fixed. The torpedo flotilla probably will be in the neighborhood of Key West about the time the squadron is in the harbor and some interesting drills and mock attacks may be expected.

Chairman Cannon and the President in Conference

Washington, December 1.—Chairman Cannon, of the house committee on appropriations, was with the president for quite a time today, discussing the subject of receipts and expenditures. Mr. Cannon would say nothing as to the object of his visit, but remarked that it was very hard to cut appropriations and that the greatest saving could be effected by not passing a river and harbor bill at this session.

Violation of Anti-Lottery Laws

Washington, December 1.—The post-office department is taking a firm stand against the so-called "missing letter" and "missing word," contests which are being conducted by a number of publishers to increase the subscriptions to their papers. All newspapers and periodicals containing advertisements of this character are forbidden transmission in the mails under the anti-lottery regulations.

SPAIN AND CUBA

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PLAN OF AUTONOMY

More Warships Wanted to Guard Penal Colonies—Castells Deferring Action—Excessive Tax on Property of an American in Cuba—Official Announcement of Several Spanish Victories—The Conservative Party in Cuba—Sick Soldiers Returning Home

Madrid, December 1.—At the cabinet meeting on yesterday, the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo, presented the request of the governor of the island of Fernando, Po., the Spanish penal settlement on the west coast of Africa, for more warships to guard that place.

Premier Sagasta read telegrams from Havana and from various towns of Spain congratulating the government upon the issuance of the autonomy decrees.

It is understood that the carlists will not take any action until Don Carlos, the pretender to the throne, has replied to a message sent to him at Vienna, relative to the political situation.

The impartial commenting today upon the reports of the latest alleged filibustering expedition of the American steamer Dauntless, calls upon Premier Sagasta to make energetic representation on the subject at Washington.

Washington, December 1.—Consul General Lee has made a report to the state department upon the case of Fernand Pons, a naturalized American citizen at present in Paris, who appealed to the department of state through his counsel, Coast Brothers, of New York, to secure the abatement of an excessive tax levied upon his plantation in Cuba. The consul general says the tax has been informed by Captain General Blanco that he had given instructions to the region governor at Guanabacoa, where the plantations were situated, to collect the tax.

Havana, December 1.—Announcement was made in the palace today, saying that a force of insurgents recently attacked Guisa, a town situated about fifteen miles from Havana, in the province of Santiago de Cuba. It was further announced that a Spanish column has left Manzanillo to engage the insurgents at Guisa.

Another announcement from the palace describes a movement of Spanish troops under General Bernal, who was accompanied by Senor Jose Canalejas, the labor leader and speaker of the congress, who is visiting Cuba to gather material for a report on the condition of the island, in behalf of the Spanish government. The Spanish force consisted of 2,300 men, accompanied by two maxim field guns. The column under the personal command of General Bernal engaged an insurgent force, according to the report, on the heights of Romero Madama and Pelados, province of Pinar del Rio, and later more severely engaged with the insurgents at La Cuchilla de Los Caminos, where the Spaniards are said to have captured and destroyed the fortified camp of the insurgent, General Puentes.

General Hernandez, commanding the second column, the report continues, captured and destroyed an insurgent camp at Aranjuez, and the Spaniards captured several other insurgent camps in the immediate vicinity of Aranjuez. As a result of these movements, continuing the report, the military operations retreated in a thoroughly demoralized condition after suffering the loss of many men. The Spanish columns lost a captain and twenty-nine soldiers wounded.

According to the latest advices from the scene of the engagement the insurgent cavalry was continuing the pursuit of the enemy.

Six hundred sick, wounded or otherwise invalided soldiers have just left Cuba for Spain.

The insurgents have destroyed with dynamite a culvert on the railroad line near Pinar del Rio, and the Spaniards, Cristobal, in the province of Pinar del Rio. Railroad traffic in that vicinity will be delayed until the culvert is temporarily repaired.

A garrison at Guisa is reported to have lost fifty killed and wounded. The Marquis de Apezteguia, leader of the Spanish conservative party, arrived yesterday at the Spanish consulate in Havana. He is a member of the central conservative committee and has had a long interview with Captain General Blanco. He says that the conservative party is well welcomed by the government in furthering the work of pacification; but he has not made any public declaration in favor of autonomy. His position is that of the central conservative committee, which recognizes the necessity of pacifying the island, but does not believe that autonomy is the best way of bringing that result about.

Today Eva Canele, a well known newspaper woman and champion of General Weyler, had an interview with Captain General Blanco and asked him to release the authors of the printed circulars sent out from the printing office of El Comercio, containing a violent attack upon General Blanco, as well as a eulogy on General Weyler. The author of the circulars were arrested on Monday when the police raided El Comercio printing office. Captain General Blanco promised to issue an order for their release.

Germany's Demands on Hayti

Washington, December 1.—The exact nature of Germany's demands on Hayti became known for the first time today. The details came by way of steamer from Port au Prince, which arrived at New York yesterday and show the demands to be as follows: First, an indemnity of 20,000 American dollars for Emile Lueders; second, the promise that Mr. Lueders may return to Hayti and there sojourn without danger of any kind; third, a letter to the German government in which Hayti will express apology for the proceedings towards the German government in the whole transaction; fourth, the president of Hayti shall graciously receive the German charge d'affaires at Port au Prince.

Hayti, in turn demands to know on what grounds an apology is asked, alleging gross disrespect on the part of the German charge d'affaires to the Haytian president. The money indemnity is regarded by Hayti as the least important feature of the affair.

Wreck of a Bark

Antwerp, December 1.—The Norwegian bark Adele and Sabine, Captain Vitund, from Brunswick, Ga., for Rotterdam, went ashore at Cocu-Sur-Mer. It is reported that the vessel is breaking up, and that her cargo is washing out and that the bodies of four of her crew have been picked up. Part of the crew are thought to have reached shore in safety.

ARGUMENT HEARD

On Petition for Extension of Time for Equipping Freight Cars and Engines With Air Brakes and Patent Couplers

Washington, December 1.—The interstate commerce commission today opened the hearing of the railroads which have petitioned for an extension of the time in which they may comply with the law of 1893, requiring them to equip their cars and engines with automatic car couplers, hand rails and airbrakes. The representatives or attorneys of several hundred railroads and also of leading labor organizations were present. John K. Cowan, one of the receivers of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, presented the general subject to the commission.

Previous to his general presentation, Chairman Morrison of the commission, called for the oral argument of the roads which were completely equipped under the law, but which had petitioned the commission for an extension of the time as applied to the cars of other roads which had not complied.

Samuel Hoar, representing the Boston and Albany railroad, made a brief argument on this point to show the utter paralysis of traffic which must follow if roads which had complied with the law were compelled to cease hauling un-equipped cars. He further said it would cost \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 for the railroads to comply with the law. This money must be earned. If the commission declined an extension the roads would be absolutely unable to equip their cars out of their own resources and would have to take it out of wages.

P. H. Morrissey, representing the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Railroad Conductors' Association, the Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and the Association of Railroad Telegraphers, followed Mr. Hoar with a forcible presentation of the attitude of the railroad employees toward the solicited extension. During the past five years 2,000 railroad men had been killed annually and 20,000 and 25,000 injured. Of these casualties, 60 per cent were directly attributable to the two evils this law was designed to correct. He replied rather heatedly to the intimation of wage reduction thrown out by Mr. Cowan. "I speak in no defiant spirit," said he, "but I want to say that when the question of a reduction in wages is brought up, I will be glad to meet it. If the alternative of reducing wages or the maiming and death of my members were presented to the organization, I represent, I would not hesitate to say that they would prefer to go out and equip the roads themselves."

The Virginia Legislature Convenes

Richmond, Va., December 1.—The Virginia general assembly met today at noon, and each house elected the officers nominated by the democratic caucuses held last night. The present session will elect a successor to Hon. John W. Daniel in the United States senate, a treasurer, two auditors, a superintendent of public instruction, a superintendent of the penitentiary, a register of the land office, and a clerk of the courts. The elections will be caucused on this week. The legislature will also elect county judges.

The governor's message was laid before the body, and ordered to be printed. It recommends that necessary appropriations to state institutions of higher learning be reduced, in order to insure the appropriation to the state soldiers' home and for pensions. It discusses the subject of lynchings, and urges that a heavy pecuniary penalty be imposed on the county and city in which a lynching occurs, the wherer the military force be called out to protect a prisoner in a county or city, such county or city be charged with the expenses thereof, and that officers who allow prisoners to be taken from their custody without first having exhausted all possible means to protect the prisoners be summarily suspended until the question of demerit shall be determined by a jury. Also that there be only one penalty for rape, and that is death.

A Big Fire in St. Louis

St. Louis, Mo., December 1.—An alarm of fire was turned in about 3:45 o'clock today for a fire in the five story building of the F. O. Sawyer Paper Company at the southwest corner of Third and Locust streets. The whole building was evidently doomed and surrounding buildings were threatened by the burning embers. Within a few moments after the flames were discovered, coming from the second story of the Sawyer building, they leaped across the street to the three story building on the southeast corner. The ground floor of this building was occupied by the Brown & Clark Paper Company. The second floor is occupied by the Commercial Printing Company, and the Flamminger & Graham bindery occupies the third floor.

On the upper floors of the building were over a score of girls employed in the bindery and printing office and these had barely time to put on their wraps and run down the stairs when the flames and smoke rolled in through the windows and broke through the roof.

At 4:45 p. m., the firemen had the flames under control, confining them to the buildings named. No approximate estimate even of the loss can be made now, but it will be heavy. As far as known there were no casualties.

The Union of Methodists

The committee appointed by the general conference of the Methodist church south and the northern Methodist church to consider the subject of the union of the two churches, have agreed to meet in joint session in Washington city January 11th. The committee of the southern church is composed of three bishops, three ministers and three laymen. Bishop Granberry is chairman of the southern committee. The other two bishops are Bishop Hargrove, who presides at the Methodist conference here, and Bishop Key. One of the three lay members of the committee is Justice Walter Clark, of the supreme court of North Carolina.—Raleigh News-Observer.

Better Than Klondike Gold

BETTER THAN KLONDIKE GOLD is health and strength gained by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier. It fortifies the whole system and gives you such strength that nervous troubles cease, and work which seemed wearying and laborious, becomes easy and is cheerfully performed. It has done this for others, it will for you.

Hood's Pills are the best family cathartic and liver tonic. Gentle, reliable, sure.

GUESTS OF CONVICTS

THEIR WIVES VISITING THEM IN THE PENITENTIARY

One Spends a Month in the Building—Students of Universities of North Carolina and Georgia to Hold Joint Debate—Educational Qualification for Voters—Williamson-Tucker Wedding—The State's Apple Crop—Average Production and Cost per Acre of Crops in This State

Messenger Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., December 1

It is ascertained that a convict in the penitentiary has had his wife there with him for a month and has been occupying a room in what is known as the administration building. It is also learned that another convict has written his wife to pay him a visit at the penitentiary.

The next event at the state university of special interest to the students is the debate with the students of the University of Georgia, in February. The University of North Carolina has the negative of the query: "Ought the United States to acquire Hawaii?" E. K. Graham, of Charlotte, and W. J. Brogden, of Wayne, are the North Carolina debaters. Judge T. C. Fuller will deliver the annual address before the university law class. Friday evening in Girard hall the university dramatic club will present "London Assurance," and during the holidays will make a brief tour of the state.

The official statement that North Carolina actually has 1,044,385 spindles in cotton and woolen mills makes it certain that in this line this state leads the south.

Sheriff Ellington of Johnston made a full settlement of state taxes today. For several years he has been the first to settle.

The ground was frozen here this morning and there was also a frozen fog, quite high on the trees. The ground appeared to be snow covered.

The question of an educational qualification for voting is much talked of. Of illiterate voters in this state about 67,000 are negroes and about 48,000 whites.

This evening at 9 o'clock at Christ church Miss Sadie Tucker, daughter of the late Major Rufus S. Tucker, was married to Mr. William H. Williamson, of this city. The wedding was a society event and the church was thronged. Miss Minnie Tucker, sister of the bride, was maid of honor and Mr. J. N. Williamson, Jr., of Graham was best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Temple Hamilton, of Baltimore; Mary Saunders, of Richmond; Laura Carter, of Asheville; Sadie Root, of Raleigh. The groomsmen were R. L. Holt, Edward Williamson, Frank P. Haywood, Jr., and William B. Snow. The ushers were H. W. Miller, B. W. Baker, Thomas Fessell and Victor Boyden. The bride wore a white satin and was preceded by her little nieces Florence and Kinsay Boylan. Rev. Dr. Marshall, rector of the church, officiated. Prominent society people from all parts of the state attended. This evening there was a reception at the home of the bride's mother, at which over 100 invited guests were present. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson left tonight for Hot Springs, Va., and thence go north.

The report on the apple crop of this state, of which about 150,000 barrels will be shipped this season, is that the average price is \$1.20 per barrel.

Ex-Governor Jones, of Alabama, who was here several hours yesterday, and who is now at Haw River, visiting Mrs. Holt, his daughter, will return here to see the state museum. He greatly admires the confederate monument in the capital square. Alabama is now building one.

On a monument in the Chickamauga national park your correspondent saw duplicates of three of the bronze statues on the confederate monument here.

Four convicts from Lenoir county arrived at the penitentiary today and one from Polk, the latter a negro convicted of attempted assault and sentenced to ten years.

Reports to the labor bureau show the average yield per acre of corn in the state to be 17 bushels, wheat 8, oats 17, rye 11, peas 14, Irish potatoes 53, sweet potatoes 69, peanuts 56, rice 27, tons of hay 2, pounds of cotton 214 of lint, pounds of tobacco 605, gallons of sorghum 93. The average price for corn is 49 cents, wheat 77, oats 35, rye 66, Irish potatoes 49, sweet potatoes 36, peanuts 83, rice 74, hay \$10.40, cotton 7 cents, tobacco 6, sorghum 27.

The cost of producing an acre of corn averages \$5.00, wheat \$4.13, oats \$2.26, rye \$3.56, Irish potatoes \$15.56, sweet potatoes \$9.68, peanuts \$7.57, cotton \$10.96, tobacco \$24.27, sorghum \$11.33.

To Form a Coal Trust

Pittsburg, Pa., December 1.—The biggest combination of river coal interests ever attempted promises to be effected before the new year. It has been talked of for years but has at last come to a focus. A committee is hard at work considering the schedules of property. There is a slight dissension in the ranks but it is not considered to be sufficient to block the way of a speedy consolidation. The scheme which is stupendous in nature, proposes the organization of one company with the capitalization of \$11,000,000. It is to be a huge trust, controlling the river coal interests from Lock No. 5, on the Monongahela river to New Orleans.

The primary object of the combination is to reduce expense in both mining and shipping. The Pittsburg operators hope by this means to successfully compete with the Kanawha river product.

Patric Walsh Elected Mayor

Augusta, Ga., December 1.—Ex-United States Senator Patrick Walsh, the citizens candidate, was today elected mayor of Augusta over William Dunbar and Daniel Kerr, by a majority of 524. Mr. Dunbar was, like Mr. Walsh, brought into the race by popular sentiment in favor of municipal reform, while Mr. Kerr was supported by the present city administration.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

First Day's Session—Reports of Officers—Appointment of Committees—Funds for Paine Institute—Address by Mrs. Harlowe

Raleigh, N. C., December 1.—The North Carolina conference of the Methodist church south, opened here at 9:30 o'clock a. m., with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, administered by the bishop, assisted by leading divines.

Reports from the officers were read and the various committees appointed. Rev. W. L. Cunningham was re-elected secretary.

Rev. W. C. Norman was elected trustee of the conference to succeed the late Dr. Black.

Bishop Halsey, of the colored Methodist church, made an appeal for Paine Institute and \$367.47 was raised in small contributions. Colonel Julian S. Carr, of Durham, added \$1,000 to the collection.

The morning session was chiefly spent in answering the twelfth question: "Are the preachers blameless in their lives and conversation?" The character of all the members in the Raleigh district passed.

The feature of the night service was an address of an hour's length by Mrs. Hargrove, wife of the presiding bishop. Her subject was "Parsonage and Home Mission Work." She spoke entertainingly, giving as she proceeded many figures and a number of touching incidents in her experience. She will speak tomorrow afternoon to women only.

A Bank President Sent to the Penitentiary

Chicago, December 1.—Charles Warren Spaulding, ex-president of the Globe Savings bank, was today sentenced to an indeterminate term in the penitentiary. He was charged with embezzling funds of the university of Illinois, of which he was treasurer. Before sentence was pronounced, he denied, that he or his counsel admitted his guilt and claimed his innocence. Under the indeterminate sentence law in operation in this state the convicted bank president may be kept in prison from one to fifteen years. The length of the sentence, after one year rests with the board of prison officers.

The Seaboard Air Line's Latest Move

Portsmouth, Va., December 1.—The latest move in the fight of the Seaboard Air Line against its competitors is shown by the following: The company has today. It doubles the baggage allowance of passengers between all points on its line. The order is as follows: "On and after December 5, 1897, and until further notice the Seaboard Air Line, in order to meet the action of its competitors, will allow free 300 pounds of baggage for each passenger holding full ticket, and 150 pounds for each half ticket, between stations on its line. There will be no change in the free allowance in checking baggage through to points beyond the Seaboard Air Line."

An American Company Gets the Contract

Philadelphia, December 1.—The A. & P. Roberts Company, which owns and operates the Pencoyd iron works, of this city, has received a cablegram, though not official, from Utrecht, stating that the company's bid of \$174,000 is the lowest in the competition for the contract for the material and erection of an extensive iron bridge over the river Yssel, near Westvoort, in the Netherlands. The bridge is to be built for the government of Holland and the Pencoyd Company had, as competitors, a number of the leading iron manufacturers and bridge builders of England and Belgium.

Count Esterhazy Confesses

Paris, December 1.—Count Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, the retired French army officer who is charged with having written the letter which led to the imprisonment on Devil's island of Alfred Dreyfus, the former captain of French artillery, who was convicted by court-martial of selling military secrets to the agents of a foreign power, is said today to have acknowledged the authenticity of the letters recently published by Figaro, with the exception of the one in which the count is said to have expressed a wish to die at the head of an Uhlan regiment sabering Frenchmen.

Slow Progress in the Luetger Case

Chicago, December 1.—The examination of talesmen in the Luetger case today was marked by many conflicts between Assistant State Attorney McEwen and Attorney Harmon, counsel for the defense. Judge Gary was required to interfere. Attorney Harmon, in catechising veniremen took frequent occasion to attack the reliability of police testimony. At the close of the day no additional jurors had been secured, but four men had been accepted by the defense and will be examined by the state tomorrow.

A fire damp explosion has taken place in the Frankerholz coal mine near Homburg. The bodies of three men killed and forty-five injured miners already have been exhumed. Others of the miners are still missing.